

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION

GREGGIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601**DECISION MEMO
ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE**

Victor Sewer District Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report
November 8, 2021
Victor Sewer District
PER – Administrative Action
46.4049342, -114.138841
Lake County

PURPOSE AND NEED

Victor Sewer District provides wastewater collection and treatment to residential and commercial businesses. The District is operated by a single operator and a part time district office manager. The District's collection system concentrates to a single lift station that pumps to a two-cell aerated lagoon treatment system. Treated effluent is either disposed of via surface irrigation or through four infiltration and percolation (I&P) cells. Treated effluent can be directed from Cell 2 to the I&P cells when the storage cell is filled, the I&P cells discharge to sandy gravel soils directly upgradient from the Bitterroot River. There is a single point of flow measurement for the district at the discharge to the irrigation system. Collection system flows are estimated by lift station pump run times.

Since original construction in the late 1970's the district has seen relatively few major modifications. Cell #1 and the storage cell were lined with an HDPE liner. Additionally, minor maintenance has been completed to the irrigation system with the addition of a UV disinfection system on the pumped discharge line. The District also purchased 15 acres of undeveloped property adjacent to the facility. The District estimates the system is approaching or has surpassed 100,000 gpd of treatment flows.

The proposed planning project aims to protect Montana's groundwater and surface water by planning for lift station improvements that include a flow meter, a new disinfection system, lining of lagoon cell 2 and evaluation of additional irrigation land application. Additionally, the project means to protect wildlife and aquatic resources using down gradient wetlands and surface water bodies that are partially recharged by groundwater discharges. The proposed project will protect groundwater wells that utilize the aquifer for safe drinking water, stock water and irrigation water.

The PER is scheduled for completion during the Winter of 2022.

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action:
DNRC approved the grant to provide funding for the Victor Sewer District.

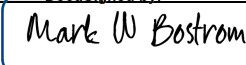
DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

- ✓ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.
- ☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.
- ☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.
- ☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.
- ☐ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

Prepared By:	Name: Sonja Hoeglund Email: shoeglund@mt.gov	Date: 11/08/2021
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Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom Title: CARD Division Administrator
Signature: 	Date: 11/15/2021 9:49:38 AM MST

